quired to take appropriate steps so that medical services could be provided to the general public when such situations arise. The Hospital authorities generally hold meetings with the employees' representatives to sort out their grievances.

Setting up of State Blood Transfusion Council in Maharashtra

2038. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEL FARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Blood Transfusion Council has been set up in Maharashtra as per Supreme Court Judgement of 4th January, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when such a council will be set up in the State?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Maharashtra State Blood Transfu sion Council has been set up as a Society reg istered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 (Regn. No. 118/1997 G.B.B.S.D.)

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Experiment in Contraceptives

2039. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: , Will the Minister of HEALH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Statesman, New Delhi edition dated 25th April, 1998 under the caption "No more guinea-pigs for W Contraceptives"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is imperative that newer contraceptive technologies are made available to Indian women so that there is wider choice of contraceptives for them to choose from.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has a rigorous review mechanism for conduction of clinical trials. Adequate steps are taken in the interest of our women while conducting research with newer contraceptive technologies in Indian context.

Eradication of Malaria

2040. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 33 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th November, 1997 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Malaria continues in rampage" which appeared in Times of India (Bombay) on 27th November, 1997 regarding continuance of Palasmodium falciparum in certain parts of the country and Jabri malaria sparked off fear among public in Gujarat, Calcutta etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the special efforts made or proposed to be made to eradicate the disease totally;

(c) if not, the reasons for failure to take adequate remedial and preventive measures; and

(d) by when an affective programme for total eradication of the disease will be commenced by Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The steps taken for Prevention & Control of Malaria including P.f. malaria are:—

— 100% Central Assistance is being provided to the Seven North-Eastern States since December, 1994, beside a Centrally sponsored Programme on a 50:50 basis under NMEP for other States in the country.

— Early diagnosis and prompt treatment of Malaria cases through Primary Health Care System, Hospitals, Dispensaries, Malaria Clinics etc. and Drug distribution Centres, Fever Treatment Depots at the Village level, is undertaken by the State Governments.

— Vector Control through insecticidal spray in rural areas and anti-larval operations in urban areas as per schedule on the basis of technical assessment.

— Intensification of Information, Education and Communication activities for mobilising active community participation.

— Observance of Anti-Malaria Month in June every year beginning from June, 1997 to create public awareness about Prevention and Containment of malaria and other vector borne diseases and to propagate the theme "Malaria Control Everyone" to make it a people's movement in the country.

Further, an Enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank support to cover essentially 100 districts in Seven States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan as well as 19 towns/cities having endemicity of malaria is being implemented since Septemebr, 1997.

Apart from supporting certain on-going strategies in the identified areas, the proposed Project would facilitate the use of the newer interventions such as Synthetic Pyrethroids, Medicated Mosquito Nets, Bi-larvicides, Larvivorous Fishes, Dipstick Blood Testing Techniques, Artemisin in Compound, Manpower Development, Enhanced Information, Education and Communication activities and Improved Management Information System.

The special measures undertaken after reported outbreaks of Malaria in Calcutta and in some districts of Gujarat during 1997 include:—

— Deputing of Central teams/Multi-disciplinary team of experts to assess the malaria situation and suggest remedial/control meas ures to be undertaken by the State Governments.

— Supply of requisite quantity of anti-malaria drug, namely Primaquine and Insecticide, namely Malathion, to render complete treatment to the patients and undertake spray operations.

— Intensification of surveillance activities as also house to house checking by deployment of staff from all departments including health.

Population Menace

2041. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been Government's population control policy;

(b) whether it is a fact that previous population control policies have failed, viewed in terms of ever increasing population;

(c) the projections for population for the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans and its likely impacts on budgetary resources, food requirements, poverty levels, education, economic growth etc.; and

(d) in what manner population problem is sought to be tackled and within what time frame?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) The National Family Welfare Programme seeks to bring down the rate of growth of population through voluntary acceptance of family planning.

(b) The National Family Welfare Pro gramme has been able to bring down the Birth Rate from 41.7 per thousand population in 1951—61 to 27.5 in 1996. This is not an in significant achievement in the context of the literacy levels and levels of economic growth.

(c) As per the projections made by Techni cal Group on Population Projections consti tuted by Planning Commission, the population of the country during the IX and X Plans would be as under:

1st March, 1997 : Rs. 94.9 crore
1st March, 2002 : Rs. 102.8 crore
1st March, 2007 : 111.1 crore

The demand requirements for various goods and services including food and education are worked out, among other things on the basis of population growth averaging 1.56% per year during the Ninth Plan period.